

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 12, 2009 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-59 are pending in this application. Claims 1-59 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 12, 19, 28, 29, 36, 40-42, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 12, 19, 28, 29, 36, 40-42, and 53 are amended herein to address the issues raised in the Office Action. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 12, 19, 28, 29, 36, 40-42, and 53 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-59 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ryan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,590,037, in view of Official Notice.

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests the claimed invention as amended. At least one of the differences between the claimed invention and Ryan in view of Official Notice is that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests calculating premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount. Rather, Ryan is directed to accounting for expected future costs related to postretirement employee benefits. Notably, the accounting described by Ryan is merely a valuation of future costs and does not describe, suggest, or even contemplate, for example, calculating for an insurer premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and/or associated accruals. Official Notice, which merely provides that using multiple processors in computing systems is old and well known in the art, does not overcome the noted deficiencies of Ryan.

Ryan describes structuring a prefunding program for an employee benefit program using a System 1. Input into System 1 includes information from Carriers 2, Corporate

Financial Data 4, Corporate Retiree Health Care Cost Information 8, and Expense and Liability Information 10. Information from Carriers 2 include premium amounts, death benefits distributed (or reinvested in the policy), and annual cash surrender values of a life insurance contract. Corporate Financial Data 4 includes a corporate tax rate, a trust tax rate, an earnings rate for a taxable trust, a variable contract earnings rate, a pre-tax corporate discount rate, an average estimated return on plan assets, and a number of corporate shares outstanding. Corporate Retiree Health Care Cost Information 8 includes medical pay-as-you-go cost, medical cost inflation assumptions, mortality assumptions, retirement rates, census type, number of retired and active employees, and pre and post age 65 health care costs. Expense and Liability Information 10 includes annual book expense and accrued liability amounts.

The annual pay-as-you-go costs, projection data, and corporate assumption data are retrieved in Blocks 20, 22, and 26, respectively. Insurance premium(s) are selected in Block 24. An illustration request uses this information to acquire projected annual premiums, targeted cash value, targeted cash flows, earnings rate, corporate tax rate, mortality assumptions, census data, and reinvestment of death benefits assumption. System 1 uses the illustration request to perform a series of calculations to produce a comprehensible financial output of a summary nature, which can be easily understood by corporate executives and others familiar with the concepts of corporate finance. Notably, Ryan does not describe or suggest calculating for an insurer premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount.

Examiner has taken Office Notice that “it is old and well known in the art to use multiple processors in computing systems to improve performance by not only increasing the number of processors but also by configuring and using specialized/special purpose processors that are designed to run certain calculations faster and more efficiently than a general purpose processor would.”

Claim 1 recites a method for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract. The method includes “storing insurance information in the database, wherein the insurance information includes at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and includes information describing the at least one insurance contract including at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses . . . transmitting insurance information from the database to the plurality of accounting engines . . . calculating for the insurer, using the accounting engines, premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount . . . generating journal entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals . . . and automatically recording the journal entries in the general ledger of the insurer.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests a method for calculating estimated results and accruals as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests calculating for an insurer premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount. Rather, in contrast to the claimed invention, Ryan is directed to accounting and accruing for expected future costs related to postretirement employee benefits. Official Notice, which merely provides that using multiple processors in computing systems is old and well known in the art, does not overcome the noted deficiencies of Ryan.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claims 2-13 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 2-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-13 likewise are patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claim 14 recites a system for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract. The system includes “a database for storing insurance information including the at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and including information describing the at least one insurance contract including at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses . . . and a plurality of accounting engines in communication with said database, said accounting engines configured to . . . receive insurance information from said database . . . calculate, for the insurer, premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount . . . generate journal entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals . . . and automatically record the journal entries in the general ledger of the insurer.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests a system for calculating estimated results and accruals as is recited in Claim 14. Claim 14 recites a system that includes a plurality of accounting engines configured to perform features essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice for the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claims 15-26 depend from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claim 15-26 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants respectfully

submit that dependent Claims 15-26 likewise are patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claim 27 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract. The computer program includes at least one code segment that “maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating insurance information including the at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and including information describing the at least one insurance contract including at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses . . . supports a plurality of accounting engines that receive insurance information from said database . . . calculates, for the insurer, premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount . . . generates journal entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals . . . and automatically records the journal entries in the general ledger of the insurer.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests a computer program for calculating estimated results and accruals as is recited in Claim 27. Claim 27 recites a computer program that includes a code segment performs features essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, Claim 27 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice for the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 27 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claims 28-37 depend from independent Claim 27. When the recitations of Claim 28-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicants respectfully

submit that dependent Claims 28-37 likewise are patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claim 38 recites a method for calculating estimated results and accruals for a business entity. The method includes “storing business information in the database including at least one of accounts receivable data, accounts payable data, operating metrics, cash flow data, financial statements, capital structure, income statements, collateral data, guarantors, claims, accruals, losses, and other information relating to the financial condition of the business . . . transmitting business information from the database to the at least one accounting engine . . . calculating, using the accounting engine, premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals for the business in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount . . . generating journal entries for recording in a general ledger of the business based on the calculated premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals . . . and automatically recording the journal entries in the general ledger of the business.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests a method for calculating estimated results and accruals as is recited in Claim 38. Claim 38 recites a method that includes features essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, Claim 38 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice for the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 38 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claims 39-48 depend from independent Claim 38. When the recitations of Claim 39-48 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 38, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 39-48 likewise are patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claim 49 recites a system for calculating estimated results and accruals for a business entity. The system includes at least one accounting engine configured to “a database for storing business information including at least one of accounts receivable data, accounts payable data, operating metrics, cash flow data, financial statements, capital structure, income statements, collateral data, guarantors, claims, accruals, losses, and other information relating to the financial condition of the business . . . and at least one accounting engine in communication with said database, said accounting engine configured to . . . receive business information from said database . . . calculate premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals for the business in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles, wherein the premium earning patterns include an estimated premium income amount, a reinstatement premium amount, and a reinstatement outstanding premium amount . . . generate journal entries for recording in a general ledger of the business based on the calculated premium earning patterns, loss patterns, and associated accruals . . . and automatically record the journal entries in the general ledger of the business.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Ryan and Official Notice describes or suggests a system for calculating estimated results and accruals as is recited in Claim 49. Claim 49 recites a system that includes at least one accounting engine configured to perform features essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, Claim 49 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice for the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

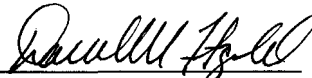
Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 49 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

Claims 50-59 depend from independent Claim 49. When the recitations of Claim 50-59 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 49, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 50-59 likewise are patentable over Ryan in view of Official Notice.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-59 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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